



U.S. Department of Justice

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Thursday, January 14, 2010

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### **District Man Found Guilty of First Degree Murder in Brazen Daylight Shooting Caught on Surveillance Camera**

**WASHINGTON** - United States Attorney Channing D. Phillips announced today that on Tuesday, January 12, 2010, a Superior Court jury found Mark Johnson, 23, of First Degree Murder While Armed and related weapons offenses, in connection with the March 12, 2008, slaying of Anthony Maddox. Maddox was standing on the steps of Truesdale Elementary School with his arms spread wide when Johnson shot him at point-blank range. Sentencing is scheduled before the Honorable Lynn Leibovitz on March 23, 2010. Johnson faces a mandatory minimum of thirty years in prison.

At trial, the government established that at approximately 5:00 p.m. on March 12, 2008, Maddox and some friends were standing on the steps of Truesdale Elementary School, located at 9<sup>th</sup> and Ingraham Streets, NW, Washington, D.C. As the men were talking, Johnson and Calvin Murphy walked up. Murphy greeted the men but Johnson hung back. At some point, Johnson and Maddox got into an argument and Murphy pushed Maddox away. Thereafter, Johnson and Maddox continued to argue. Just before the shooting, Maddox was standing on the steps of the school with his arms spread wide and nothing in his hands. Johnson was standing about eight feet away. Johnson turned, pulled out a chrome revolver, and shot Maddox three times. Maddox was hit in the back three times; the fatal bullet pierced his heart. Johnson and Murphy then fled.

The shooting was captured on a surveillance camera mounted on the side of the school. The camera clearly showed the shooter holding a chrome gun, with long hair and a medallion around his neck. Witnesses described the medallion as a "14<sup>th</sup> Street" chain. During a later search of Johnson's home police recovered a picture of him wearing a "14<sup>th</sup> Street" chain, and a "14<sup>th</sup> Street" District of Columbia street sign from his bedroom. When he was arrested two weeks later, Johnson had cut his hair to a closely cropped style in an attempt to avoid identification. The investigation was complicated because an MPD officer saw the surveillance images on the night of the shooting and initially misidentified the shooter. However, investigation revealed that other officers were with the misidentified suspect at the time of the shooting.

In announcing today's verdict, U.S. Attorney Phillips praised Metropolitan Police Detective Alfred Thomas Austin-Braxton, whose tireless efforts led to the arrest of the defendant and the presence at trial of frightened and reluctant witnesses, one of whom had been shot because he was cooperating with authorities. U.S. Attorney Phillips also commended Detective Kimberly Lawrence, Housing Police Sergeant George Winkey and MPD officers Kenneth Thompkins, Matthew Krimmel, Antoinette Mason and Derrick Potts, who assisted in the investigation. U.S. Attorney Phillips further recognized Paralegal Debra Joyner, who provided critical support work during the investigation and trial, and the U.S. Attorney's Office Litigation Support Unit, especially Litigation Support Specialist Thomas Royal, who prepared numerous trial exhibits for the case. Finally, U.S. Attorney Phillips praised Victim Advocate Marcia Rinker, who worked tirelessly with both the victim's family and numerous witnesses, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Steven B. Snyder, who investigated and tried the matter.

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